

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new): A process for the estimation of volatile substances, comprising the steps of:

- i) heating distilled water in a flask to a first temperature,
- ii) adding a sample to be tested into said heated water,
- iii) closing the flask,
- iv) maintaining the flask containing the sample at a second temperature lower than said first temperature,
- v) purging the flask with air,
- vi) drawing up the volatile substances and subjecting it to analysis.

Claim 12 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein volatilization of the volatile substances is carried out at low pressure.

Claim 13 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein volatilization of the volatile substances is carried out in vacuum.

Claim 14 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first temperature is the boiling temperature of water.

Claim 15 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the heating of water is carried out at atmospheric pressure.

Claim 16 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, further comprising equilibrating the flask at the lower temperature for about one hour.

Claim 17 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the flask is closed with a stopper having a cork at one end.

Claim 18 (new): The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the air is purged by inserting a syringe needle through the cork and introducing air into the flask.

Claim 19 (new): The process as claimed in claim 18, further comprising moving a plunger of the syringe up and down a plurality of times in order to cause turbulence in the flask.

Claim 20 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the syringe sucks up a volume of the volatile substances.

Claim 21 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein about 10 ml. of the volatile substances are sucked up.

Claim 22 (new): The process as claimed in claim 21, further comprising expelling most of the volatile substances from the syringe and injecting the remaining volatile substances into a chromatograph fitted with an ECD and capillary column for qualitative and quantitative estimation.

Claim 23 (new): An apparatus for the estimation of volatile substances, comprising:

a flask having a neck and a mouth defined in said neck;
a stopper having a mouth defined therein adapted to fit the mouth of said flask;
and
a closure member for closing the mouth of said stopper.

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Claim 24 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said closure member is a cork.

Claim 25 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said cork is a silicon cork.

Claim 26 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said stopper is a hollow member.

Claim 27 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said stopper comprises a lower section of a conical section and an upper section of a frusto conical section.